



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Eastern District of Virginia*

*Main Street Centre*  
*600 E. Main Street*  
*Richmond, Virginia 23219-2447*

*804/771-2186*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Further Information Contact:**  
**Sue Vick (804) 819-5400**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing today of Marilyn Roberson, age 38, of Richmond, Virginia, for her role in a conspiracy to commit bank fraud. United States District Judge Richard L. Williams sentenced Roberson to 66 months of imprisonment and ordered her to pay \$186,137.63 in restitution to six area banks affected by the fraud.

Roberson was indicted with thirteen others in August 2005 as the lead defendant in a conspiracy that spanned from June 2004 to January 2005. During this time frame, Roberson directed others to open 9 different bank accounts for the sole purpose of negotiating worthless or stolen checks. Roberson also paid others for the use of their pre-existing accounts to deposit the checks. The objective of the conspiracy was to make quick withdrawals before the victim banks could detect fraud. Roberson received an enhanced sentence based on evidence of a "leadership role" in executing the fraud scheme.

This prosecution was initiated after referrals from some of the affected banks, which noticed the suspicious transactions. The investigation was conducted by the Metro-Richmond Fraud and Identity Theft Task Force, with participation from the Hanover Sheriff's Office. The Task Force was formed in November 2004 to address the growing problem of identity theft and related crimes in the metro Richmond area. The federal, state and local agencies participating in the Task Force on a full-time basis are: U.S. Treasury Inspector General, Office of Investigations; United States Postal Inspection Service; United States Secret Service; Richmond Police Department; and Henrico Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura C. Marshall.

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